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SUBJECT: PAKISTAN MEDIA REACTION: JANUARY 04, 2010

Summary: Media coverage of the U.S. in the new year began with reports in all major English language dailies of Thursday's signing of an implementation letter worth \$55 million for FATA infrastructure. Media also carried reports regarding the closure of a U.S. training facility at Sihala and the Foreign Office's statement that Pakistan has an extradition treaty with the U.S. Reports that U.S. drone strikes killed a top militant leader also garnered coverage, while "The News" ran the headline, "44 U.S. drone hits killed 700 civilians, 5 al-Qaeda men in 2009." A suicide bombing at a volleyball match in Lakki Marwat dominated headlines on Saturday. Nearly all newspapers covered the attack on a CIA base in Afghanistan's Khost Province, reporting that the base may have been used to launch drone strikes along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

On Sunday, all major English dailies carried the U.S. condemnation of the Lakki Marwat attacks, quoting statements from Secretary Clinton and Embassy Islamabad. Prime Minister Gilani's statement that the "delay in the implementation of Charter of Democracy, signed between Pakistan People's Party and Pakistan Muslim League, was 'the biggest mistake' (of his government) dominated headlines in all major dailies on Monday. The closure of the U.S. and UK embassies in Yemen owing to security threats also figured prominently. Reports and photographs of the killing of a former provincial minister of NWFP in a bomb blast in Hangu (Kohat) received prominent front-page coverage. All newspapers reported that the five U.S. nationals arrested last month "will be indicted under different sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act" today. Remarks by the U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser Brennan that "CIA is on the front line in war along Pak-Afghan border" garnered wide display. Also front-paged were reports that "three foreigners among five" were killed in a "CIA-operated" drone strike in North Waziristan Agency. End Summary.

TOP STORIES

News Story: U.S., U.K. Close Embassies In Yemen - "Dawn" (01/04)

"The United States and Britain closed their embassies in Yemen on Sunday after receiving information that Al Qaeda is planning attacks at American and British targets in that country, President Barack Obama's top counter-terrorism Adviser John Brennan told journalists in Washington."

News Story: CIA On The Front Line In War Along Pak-Afghan Border - "Dawn" (01/04)

"The CIA is on the front line in the war along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border and will continue to play this role despite a temporary setback, U.S. President Barack Obama's top counter-terrorism adviser said on Sunday. Last week, a Taliban group

attacked the spy agency's main base in Afghanistan, killing eight Americans, including the CIA's station manager and six agents. John Brennan, the U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser for Homeland Security and Counter-terrorism, told reporters that the CIA was looking very carefully at the circumstances surrounding the Khost attack and was trying to make sure that such incidents didn't happen again."

News Story: U.S. Increases Resources In Region - "Dawn" (01/04)

"U.S. President Barack Obama has said that his country has dramatically increased its resources in the Pak-Afghan region because this was where Al Qaeda was actually based. In his Saturday radio address, Mr. Obama drew a direct link between an Al Qaeda group and a foiled attempt to blow up a U.S.-bound airliner."

News Story: American Nationals To Be Indicted On Terror Charges - "Dawn" (01/04)

"The five U.S. nationals arrested last month will be indicted under different sections of Anti-Terrorism Act on Monday (today) when they will be presented in Sargodha District and Sessions Court. Waqar Hussain Khan (22), Virginia, Ahmed Abdullah Mani (20), Virginia, Ramay S. Zamzam (22), Egypt, Iman Hasan Yamar (17), California and Omar Farouk (24), Virginia, were arrested in Sargodha on Dec 9 for 'plotting terror attacks in Pakistan and Afghanistan.'"

#### TERRORISM/MILITARY ISSUES

News Story: 44 U.S. Drone Hits Killed 700 civilians, 5 Al Qaeda Men In 2009 - "The News" - (01/01)

"Of the 44 Predator strikes carried out by the American drones in the tribal areas of Pakistan in 12 months of 2009, only five were able to hit their actual targets, killing five key al Qaeda and Taliban leaders, but at the cost of around 700 innocent civilians lives."

News Story: 90 Killed In Lakki Marwat Bombing - "Daily Times" (01/02)

"At least 90 people were killed after a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden pickup truck in the middle of a volleyball game in the village of Shah Hasan Khel, in Bannu division of Lakki Marwat on New Year's Day. 'It's just a disaster. I can see flesh, bodies and wounded all around,' Fazl-e-Akbar, a witness, told Reuters by telephone. 'It's dark. Vehicles' headlights are being used to search for victims.'"

News Story: Top Militant Leader Killed In Drone Attack - "Dawn" (01/02)

"Two people were killed and four others injured when a U.S. drone fired two missiles on a car parked outside a residential compound in Hakimkhel area of North Waziristan on Friday. According to sources, militant leader Haji Mohammad Umar was among those killed in the attack."

News Story: Clinton Condemns Suicide Bombing - "The News," "Dawn," "The Nation," "Pakistan Observer" (01/03)

"U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton denounced the suicide car bombing Friday of a volleyball game in Pakistan that left at least 88 people dead. 'The United States strongly condemns today's terrorist attack on civilians in Pakistan, and we offer our condolences to the families of the victims and all the people of Pakistan,' Clinton said in a statement."

News Story: Travellers From 14 Nations Will Face Additional Screening In U.S. - "The Nation" (01/04)

"Travelers from 14 nations including Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia flying into the United States will face additional screening starting today, U.S. officials have said."

News Story: 3 Arabs Among 5 Killed In Drone Attack - "Dawn" (01/04)

"Five people, three of them Arabs, were killed when a drone fired

two missiles on a house in Mosaki village of North Waziristan on Sunday night, official sources said."

News Story: Militants' Bomb Kills Ex-Minister In Hangu - "Dawn" (01/04)

"Former provincial irrigation minister Ghani-ur-Rehman and his cousin were killed when an improvised explosive device, believed to have been planted by militants, went off on the Bagato road in Hangu district on Sunday."

News Story: 12 Terrorists Killed In Swat, SWA - "The Nation" (01/04)

"At least 12 terrorists were killed and one soldier embraced martyrdom while scores of soldiers and terrorists were injured in encounters between the security forces and terrorists in South Waziristan and Swat-Malakand region, ISPR reported on Sunday."

News Story: Fazlullah's Driver Surrenders - "Dawn" (01/04)

"The driver Khadim Hussain of Swat Taliban Chief Maulana Fazlullah along with a companion surrendered to security forces in Kabal tehsil of the district while seven suspected militants were arrested in Bara tehsil of Khyber Agency on Sunday, officials confirmed the surrender of Khadim Hussain."

News Story: Karachi Violence A Pre-Planned Conspiracy? - "Daily Times" (01/04)

"A private TV channel has claimed violence and a fire that erupted after a blast targeting a Muharram procession in Karachi on December 28 were 'thoroughly pre-planned.' Basing its claim on CCTV footage, the channel said police and Rangers deployed in the area had 'started leaving their positions in a hurry,' as no security personnel were visible in footage taken one minute and 12 seconds after the blast. The 'pre-planned arson' began 39 minutes after the blast, when 'suspicious people' started arriving at the site. Showing a CCTV grab taken 39 minutes and 23 seconds after the blast, the channel said, 'There were well-equipped people with ringleaders distributing phosphorous packets, petrol and gloves.'"

#### POLITICAL ISSUES

News Story: Pakistan Has Extradition Treaty With U.S., says FO - "Dawn" (01/01)

"Weeks after denying that Pakistan had an extradition treaty with the United States, the government said on Thursday that the two countries had an accord for return of fugitives as per a 1973 notification, Foreign Office spokesman Abdul Basit said at a media briefing."

News Story: Ignoring CoD Biggest Mistake, Admits PM - "The News" (01/04)

"Admitting for the first time that his government had committed a serious mistake by not implementing the Charter of Democracy (CoD) immediately after taking over the reins of power, Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani on Sunday vowed to expeditiously correct the 'big mistake.'"

News Story: Gilani, Nawaz Discuss Accountability Law - "Dawn" (01/04)

"Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and Pakistan Muslim League-N chief Nawaz Sharif discussed on Sunday salient features of the draft of a new accountability law which the government plans to introduce, a spokesman for the Prime Minister's House told 'Dawn.'"

News Story: Kayani Backs Democracy: Gilani - "Dawn" (01/04)

"In an interview with Al Jazeera television, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has said that Army Chief Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani is a highly professional soldier and ardent supporter of democracy."

#### ECONOMY/ENVIRONMENT

News Story: U.S. To Release \$1.2 Billion In January Under CSF -  
"Daily Times" (01/01)

"U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson on Thursday announced that Washington would release \$1.2 billion in January 2010 as part of the Coalition Support Fund (CSF). The release had been delayed due to non-availability of responsible personnel in the U.S. Embassy to process the case, she told reporters after signing an agreement for \$55 million Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Construction Program in South Waziristan."

News Story: U.S. To Fund Rebuilding In SWA - "Dawn" (01/01)

The U.S. will support a \$55 million infrastructure rehabilitation and construction program in the South Waziristan Agency. This was announced by U.S. Ambassador Anne W. Patterson at a ceremony held in Islamabad on Thursday."

News Story: IMF OK With Pakistan, Miffed With Donors - "The News" (01/04)

"Key members of IMF's Executive Board have criticized the Fund for allowing Islamabad to use its augmented resources for budgetary purposes, stating that it resulted into 'relaxing' those donors who pledged at Tokyo conference to provide \$5.3 billion within two years to Pakistan. An International Monetary Fund (IMF) official based in Washington D.C. shared contents of speeches made by the members of the Executive Board of the Fund with 'The News.'"

News Story: OGDC Blamed For Oil, Gas Output Decline - "Dawn" (01/04)

"The oil and gas production in the country has significantly declined over the past two years mainly because of the inability of the state-run Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) to meet its drilling targets, resulting in increased outflow of foreign exchange for imported fuels, informed sources told 'Dawn' on Sunday."

#### MISCELLANEOUS

News Story: Hundreds of Afghans Rally Against NATO Forces -  
"Pakistan Observer" (01/04)

"Hundreds of people, mostly students rallied in central Kabul and eastern Nangarhar provinces against the killing of civilians in foreign forces operations.... Activists of youth branch of Jamiat Eslah (Afghan Society for Social Reform and Development) staged a demonstration in Kabul, condemning the airstrikes and demanded withdrawal of the troops."

U.S. Mulling Stiffer Curbs On Tehran: NYT - "The Nation" (01/04)

"Growing political opposition in Iran may present an opportunity for the United States to strike hard with sanctions, The New York Times reported Sunday, citing unnamed American officials. The Obama administration is considering sanctions that would specifically target the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, which plays a key role in the nuclear program and in repression of anti-government demonstrations, the newspaper said."

#### EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

Editorial: Control & Reciprocity, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (01/03)

"The Interior Ministry's decision to take back the facilities provided to the so-called US trainers at Sihala Police Academy is a welcome development but it needs to be implemented. At the moment the decision has not been conveyed in writing and all the U.S. equipment remains in Sihala. But the Interior Ministry's decision also shows that effective public pressure through protests and the media does have an impact on the government. This is simply a first hesitant step and the government needs to do a lot more to rid the country of the threat from covert U.S. operatives.... Clearly, there is a need to restructure the whole relationship with the U.S. at all levels and to regain our lost space within our own country.... Unless the Pakistani state can re-establish its authority on its own

soil, it will continue to see its citizens victimized by external powers."

Editorial: Another Massacre, an editorial in the Lahore-based liberal English daily "The Post" (cir. 5,000) (01/04)

"Another massacre and this time it has taken place in unlucky Lakki Marwat, a part of the Frontier region which is the special - and easy - target of terrorists and bombers.... Suicide bombers have kept attacking us everywhere across Pakistan but we have not yet been able to find a way to stop them.... Clearly, the security arrangements have failed to cope with the terrorist challenge to our existence. The militants are capable of hitting us anywhere and everywhere and we are unable to defend ourselves. The time has come to review and revise the entire gamut of our security policies and strategies to make them really effective against the menace of terrorist attacks."

Editorial: Self-Inflicted Fear?, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (01/04)

"If there is a threat of "undemocratic forces" - from wherever - the politicians should inform the people with some proof. Yes, in terms of the US and India, the President has genuine concerns but he can act to counter these. But at a time when the military is doing the political government's bidding it makes no sense to deliberately provoke a conflict through unfounded accusations and efforts to undermine military institutions. At present, the President's daily dose of imagined threats is itself undermining the political process and making stable governance impossible. That is where the present threat to the system and the state is coming from."

Editorial: A Beleaguered Karzai, an editorial in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (01/04)

"There must be little doubt, however, that a lot of Mr. Karazai's headaches are directly related to failure of the U.S.-led occupation forces to beat the insurgency. The swelling of the ranks of insurgents follows from the Afghans' age-old spirit of resistance to any alien rule, and a Pushtun figurehead, widely and rightly perceived as an American puppet, cooped up in the Presidential Palace and living at the mercy of foreign forces, would have little respectability and influence in the eyes of the independent minded people."

Editorial: President Zardari's Aggressive Manner: He Should Avoid Undermining The System Himself, an editorial in the second-largest, nationalist Urdu daily "Nawa-i-Waqt" (cir. 150,000) (01/04)

"President Asif Ali Zardari and his party do not so far face a threat to their government. Those who could be dangerous for their rule have resolved to save the system.... According to the President he does not have any threat coming from the Army, then, on may ask, who is posing a threat to his government. If some state or non-state actors are posing a threat to the system then he should clearly identify them. He should abstain from himself destabilizing the system on the basis of some self created danger."

Editorial: Indian Army Chief's Statement And Pak Army's Reaction, an editorial in liberal Urdu daily "Express" (cir. 25,000) (01/04)

"Indian Army Chief said recently that Indian Army is preparing to wage a war with Pakistan and China simultaneously wherein it will get indirect help from America and Russia.... The Indian Army Chief and his government should better reconsider the statement and their policy and should talk about peace instead of destruction.... The Indian leadership should abstain from the policy of creating water scarcity for Pakistan, for this issue can lead to a war between the two countries."

Opinion: The Year In Retrospect, an op-ed by Talat Masood in the populist, often sensational national English daily "The News" (cir. 55,000) (01/04)

"The ultimate success against militancy would depend on economic development, and the strengthening of political and social institutions which is far too slow. The militants in tribal agencies, though linked by the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), have

different motives and dynamics. The army will have to devise a strategy that is different for each group. The Jihadi and sectarian elements are also posing a serious threat to our integrity. No serious effort was made to harness and bring them back to the mainstream. The danger is if they are not dealt firmly, they could further strengthen nexus with the Taliban and Al Qaeda. There is also ambiguity regarding whether or not the army is fully on board in abandoning its past policy of relying on militant proxies as a strategic tool for India."

Opinion: Replicating The Vietnam Finale!, an op-ed by Khalid Iqbal in the center-right national English daily "The Nation" (cir. 20,000) (01/04)

"The faulty American strategy in Afghanistan has had tremendous negative fallouts in Pakistan. In fact most of Pakistan's woes of these days are a direct and indirect outcome of American follies in Afghanistan. So after perceiving this reality the hard way, the Pakistani public has evolved almost a nationwide consensus on several cardinal aspects of this war.... As of now, Americans are most likely to gate crash into a Vietnam like finale. Post-U.S. occupation of Afghanistan is destined to resemble its post-Soviet era model. It is indeed painful for the well-wishers of Pak-U.S. and Pak-Afghan relations to predict this gory scenario. Out of stubbornness, the Americans are in a denial mode. Therefore, Pakistan needs to take corrective and preventive measures to avoid the inevitable fallout."

Opinion: West Ignores Pakistan Sacrifices, an op-ed by Sajjad Shaukat in the Islamabad-based rightist English daily "Pakistan Observer" (cir. 5,000) (01/04)

"Whenever any terror-incident takes place or any plot is foiled in Europe and America, their high officials deliberately links it with Pakistan on one or the other way.... Quite contrarily, U.S. and European leaders only want to use Usama Bin Laden as a scapegoat to target and destabilize Pakistan because it is the lonely nuclear country in the Islamic World.... However, these false allegations are part of a conspiracy against our country. Particularly U.S. which tactically favors anti-Pakistan campaign of India has been playing a double game with Islamabad.... Although fact remains that in the last eight years, unlike other countries, Pakistan has borne the brunt of major losses during war on terror, yet America and its western allies ignore the sacrifices of our country."

(All circulation figures are based on estimation)  
Patterson